



INSIGHTS

107th Congress

February 21, 2001

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I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

HOUSE

The House will reconvene on Monday, February 26, at 2:00 p.m.

SENATE

The Senate will reconvene on Monday, February 26, at 12:00 p.m.

WHITE HOUSE

FY 2002 Budget Request – The President is scheduled to submit his FY 2002 Budget Request to Congress on February 28. This general request will be followed by a more detailed proposal in early April. In his weekly radio address on Saturday, February 17, President Bush discussed his budget and tax cut proposal. He told his audience that:

*My budget will fund our priorities, from education to defense to protecting Social Security and Medicare. It will pay down our national debt.... My plan is pro-growth. **It gives our economy a jump-start by leaving more money in the hands of those who have earned it.... Amid growing concern over the economy and high energy costs**, we're seeing a good deal of bipartisan agreement that now is the time to reduce the tax burden and slow the growth of government spending.*

White House Appointments – President Bush announced on February 20, the **appointment of Ruben Barrales as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs**. In this position, Mr. Barrales' responsibilities will focus on working with state and local governments. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network in California.

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of **INSIGHTS** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. **INSIGHTS** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

Comments or Action Items

FY 2001 Emergency Defense Supplemental – Last week, leading House Democrats sent a letter to President Bush urging him to reverse an earlier decision not to increase FY 2001 funding for the Department of Defense. The letter followed the introduction of *H.R. 576* (refer to III. New Legislation, below), which was introduced on February 13 by Representative Norman Dicks (D/WA), a member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations and Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs – On February 15, full committee chair Chris Smith (R/NJ) held an organizational meeting in which committee and subcommittee assignments were announced. In discussing his legislative agenda he said the committee will focus on “making veterans a top budget priority for Congress.”

Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality – Last week, the subcommittee, which is chaired by Joe Barton (R/TX), held a hearing that was scheduled to address issues surrounding the California energy crisis. During the 107th Congress, full committee chair Bill Tauzin (R/LA) and Representative Barton expect the subcommittee to focus on developing energy legislation. The hearing covered a wide range of issues in which various Republican and Democratic members listed their priorities:

- Steve Largent (R/OK), John Shimkus (R/IL), and Thomas Sawyer (D/OH) said the Nation's transmission infrastructure is the key issue.
- Greg Walden (R/OR) agreed that transmission is crucial but also emphasized the need for improving the process for licensing hydro power.
- Lee Terry (R/NE) supports the reduction in environmental regulations that inhibit the construction of new power plants.
- George Radanovich (R/CA) believes that power production could be increased by 10 percent if *Clean Air Act* requirements are relaxed.
- Ed Markey (D/MA) opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and plans to block any legislation containing a drilling provision.
- Harry Waxman (D/CA) opposes relaxation of environmental standards as a means for resolving power issues.

Nine-Point Priority List – Majority Leader Dick Armey (R/TX) announced a nine-point priority list for the Republican-led House. In making his announcement, Representative Armey said, “We need to liberate the private sector to increase the supply of energy.”

Committee/Subcommittee Leadership

(NOTE: New chairmen and ranking members are in red.)

Committee/Subcommittee	Chair (R)	Ranking Member (D)
Government Reform	Dan Burton (IN)	Henry Waxman (CA)
• Government Efficiency, Financial Management, and Intergovernmental Relations (formerly Government Management, Information, and Technology)	Stephen Horn (CA)	Janice Schakowsky (NY)
• Energy Policy, Natural Resources, and	Doug Ose (CA)	John Tierney (MA)

Committee/Subcommittee	Chair (R)	Ranking Member (D)
Regulatory Affairs (formerly National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs)		
Resources	James Hansen (UT)	Nick Rahall (WV)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Parks and Public Land 	Joel Hefley (CO)	Nick Rahall (WV)
Science	Sherwood Boehlert (NY)	Ralph Hall (TX)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy and the Environment 	Roscoe Bartlett (MD)	Lynn Woolsey (CA)

SENATE

Comments or Action Items

FY 2002 Budget Priorities – Committee on the Budget Chairman Pete Domenici (R/NM) attended a meeting at the White House on February 15 with other Republican House and Senate leaders. Senator Domenici is concerned that President Bush’s FY 2002 budget may not be sufficient to address discretionary funding priorities if based on FY 2001 funding plus an allowance for inflation. FY 2001 discretionary spending totaled \$637 billion; adjusted for inflation, FY 2002 funding would be raised to \$665 billion. President Bush plans to meet separately with Democrats on the FY 2002 budget.

Climate Change – Bob Smith (R/NH), Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, said last week that “Ultimately, we have to settle on caps that are acceptable, and timelines that are acceptable.” His remarks were made in reference to passage of climate change legislation that deals with “cap-and-trade” provisions for regulating utility emissions.

Democratic Energy Package – Last week, Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D/SD) hinted that the Democrats plan to introduce their own energy plan. Prior to introducing legislation, he said he wants to meet with President Bush to discuss the rising cost of energy and plans to introduce supplemental legislation to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Committee/Subcommittee Leadership

(NOTE: New chairmen and ranking members are in red.)

Committee/Subcommittee	Chair (R)	Ranking Member (D)
Energy and Natural Resources	Frank Murkowski (AK)	Jeff Bingaman (NM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Research, Development, Production, and Regulation National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation 	Don Nickles (OK) Craig Thomas (WY)	Bob Graham (FL) Daniel Akaka (HI)

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III. NEW LEGISLATION

HOUSE

Number	Short Title	Date	Sponsor	Key Provisions	Status
<i>H.R.576</i>	<i>Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2001</i>	February 13	Norman Dicks. (D/WA) <i>Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations</i>	Makes emergency supplemental appropriations for FY 2001 for DOD	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations
<i>H.R.608</i>	<i>Clean Air and Water Preservation Act of 2001</i>	February 14	Greg Ganske (R/IA) <i>Committee on Energy and Commerce</i>	Amends section 211 of the <i>Clean Air Act</i> to prohibit use of MTBE, provides flexibility within the oxygenate requirement of EPA's Reformulated Gasoline Program, promotes use of renewable ethanol	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
<i>H.R.610</i>	<i>Middle Income Home Heating Assistance Act of 2001</i>	February 14	Bobby Rush (D/IL) <i>Committee on Energy and Commerce</i>	Amends <i>Internal Revenue Code of 1986</i> to allow individuals refundable credit for portion of amount paid for natural gas	Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<i>H.R.704</i>	<i>Energy Time Adjustment Authorization Act</i>	February 14	Brad Sherman (D/CA)	Permits states in Pacific time zone (California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington) to temporarily adjust standard time statewide to help alleviate energy crisis if determined necessary by state; expires after December 31, 2003	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

SENATE

Number	Short Title	Date	Sponsor	Key Provisions	Status
<i>S.286</i>	<i>Small Business Assistance Act of 2001</i>	February 8	Dianne Feinstein (D/CA) <i>Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Western States Senate Coalition</i>	Directs DOC to establish program to make no-interest loans to eligible small business concerns to address economic harm resulting from shortages of, and increases in price of electricity and natural gas	Referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
<i>S.287</i>	<i>No Short Title</i>	February 8	Dianne Feinstein	Directs FERC to impose	Referred to

Number	Short Title	Date	Sponsor	Key Provisions	Status
			(D/CA) (see memberships listed above)	cost-of-service based rates on sales by public utilities of electric energy at wholesale in western energy market	the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
S.293	<i>Home Energy Assistance Tax Act</i>	February 8	Tom Harkin (D/IA) <i>Subcommittees on Defense Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies</i>	Amends <i>Internal Revenue Code of 1986</i> to provide refundable tax credit against increased residential energy costs	Referred to the Committee on Finance
S.295	<i>Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2001</i>	February 8	John Kerry (D/MA) <i>Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Observer Group of UN Climate Change Negotiations</i>	Provides emergency relief to small businesses affected by significant increases in price of heating oil, natural gas, propane, and kerosene	Referred to Committee on Small Business
S.352	<i>Energy Emergency Response Act of 2001</i>	February 15	Jeff Bingaman (D/NM) <i>Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ranking, Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, Member of Observer Group on UN Climate Change Negotiations</i>	(Companion bill to <i>H.R. 683</i> by Ed Markey D/CA on 2/14/01, which was introduced but not yet available in print) Provides for energy management reviews of Federal facilities for increasing energy and water conservation and applying renewable energy sources; allows for savings from operations and maintenance of replacement facilities; repeals ESPC sunset provision	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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IV. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

No new announcements to report.

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V. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
<i>February or March</i> – Committee on Science	Sherwood Boehlert (R/NY)	<i>Hearing</i> – Energy programs	TBA	TBA
<i>March 6</i> – Committee on Veterans’ Affairs	Chris Smith (R/NJ)	<i>Hearing</i> – Veterans’ Affairs budget	TBA	1:00 p.m. Room 334 Cannon Office Building
<i>March 13</i> - Committee on Veterans’ Affairs	Chris Smith (R/NJ)	<i>Hearing</i> – Authorization of Veterans’ Affairs healthcare facility construction projects	TBA	1:30 a.m. Room 334 Cannon Office Building

SENATE – APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
<i>March 13, 27, April 3, 24</i> – Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development	Ted Stevens (R/AK)	<i>Hearing</i> – Proposed budget for programs under subcommittee’s jurisdiction Schedule to be announced for coverage of DOE’s energy	TBA	9:30 a.m. (March 13) 10:00 a.m. all other dates Room 124 Dirksen Office Building

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
<i>March 1</i> - Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Frank Murkowski (R/AK)	<i>Hearing</i> – <i>S. 26</i> authorizes DOE to impose interim limitations on cost of electricity; <i>S. 80</i> – directs FERC to require refunds for discriminatory or preferential rates or charges for electricity; <i>S. 287</i> – directs FERC to impose cost of service based on sales by public utilities at wholesale prices in western energy market	TBA	9:30 a.m. Room 106 Dirksen Office Building

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